

Portuguese Embassy.
11. Belgrave Square.
London, SW1X 8PP

Proc.3,6

Nº 190

23rd May, 1989

Mrs. Carmel Budiardjo,
Organising Secretary,
The Indonesian Human Rights Campaign,
111, Northwood Road,
Thornton Heath,
Surrey,
CR4 8HW

Dear Mrs. Budiardjo,

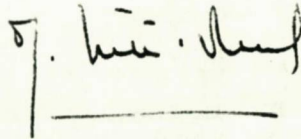
With reference to your letter of the 21st of April 1989, I have pleasure in informing you that our Permanent Representative in the United Nations, handed, personally, to the Secretary-General Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the letter from Monsignor Belo. Mr. Perez de Cuellar was also requested to convey its contents to the United Nations Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization for inclusion in the documentation used by the above-mentioned Committee regarding the question of East-Timor.

Furthermore, the letter has been used in our diplomatic activity, in a criterious manner, on the question of East-Timor. We would like to point out that the mentioned letter has caused, as it was expected, strong disapproval from the Indonesian authorities, who have put Monsignor Belo's correspondence under vigilance and have been trying to promote street demonstrations against his person.

As regards the news in the "Jakarta Post" of the 14th April 1989, it must be taken into consideration that there is no agreement between Indonesia and Australia enabling the joint venture of the so called "Timor Gap", that is, of the continental platform existing between the territory of East-Timor and Australia, having solely been announced the political intention of both Governments to act towards its conclusion. The Portuguese Government has already protested against this declaration and reserves itself the right of recurring to the appropriate international organisations for the defense of the legitimate rights of the population of East-Timor.

With respect to other activities of exploitation and drilling for oil in the sea of Timor which are not specifically connected to "Timor Gap", it is not up to the Portuguese Government to express any views on that matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Corte-Real', written over a horizontal line.

(Manuel Corte-Real)

Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.,